

REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

The Official Action has been carefully considered, and the Examiner's comments are duly noted. Reconsideration of this Application in view of the arguments submitted and amendments to the claims is respectfully requested, together with the allowance of the claims.

Since this Application is under Final and running into the extended period, Applicant's attorney would appreciate a courtesy telephone call to do what is necessary to place this Application into condition for allowance.

With respect to paragraph 1, a separate Divisional Application was filed for claims 14-23, Serial No. 11/560,948. Therefore, claims 14 to 23 have been cancelled.

With respect to the present Application, new claims 24 to 27 have been added to define the invention further. The claims now in this Application are 7 to 13 and 24 to 27. The claim quantity is less than when the Final Rejection was issued and, therefore, the claims should be considered. The claims 24 to 27 were added based on a consideration of the Examiner's previous rejection.

With respect to paragraphs 2 and 3 and the rejection of claims 7 and 11 to 13 under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Dietrich U.S. Patent No. 5,768,734 in view of Cox et al. U.S. Patent No. 6,419,839, Applicant respectfully submits that these claims as amended are patentable over any combination of the two aforesaid references, regardless of how combined.

For the sake of the record, it is noted that the Examiner states that the Dietrich (D) reference discloses a framework (12) having a peripheral recess (28). In col. 3, lines 51, 54, 57, as well as in claim 1, however, the item (12) is a housing not a framework. The item (28) is a rim (col. 3, line 58; col. 4, lines 56, 63), not a recess. Furthermore, as stated in col. 4, lines 56 to 63 "the peripheral rim (28) about the discharge (26) of the

housing (12) permits”..., while according to the present invention, the filter (14) is attached about the raw liquid inlet openings (10).

There is, therefore, no equivalence in the elements and the manner in which they associate.

Further, the Examiner states that the filtering bag (80) of D has “a stretchable band (82) extending along the rim”. This is not so. As clearly stated in col. 4, line 60 of D, “An elastic band (82), bungee cord, ... fits over the peripheral rim...”, namely, the band (82) is a separate unit. In contradistinction thereto, claim 7 as amended defines a filter bag having a stretchable band affixed thereto, namely, the opening is stretchable and sized to fit over the strip without an additional, separate band.

A new claim 24 has been submitted because it appears that the Examiner considers the symmetrical halves 14, 16 to be equivalent to the framework.

To distinguish further, claim 24 defines the framework members as being substantially rectangular and substantially parallel. Since halves 14, 16 are movable relative to each other, they cannot be substantially parallel. Therefore, new claim 24 clearly distinguishes from Dietrich.

With respect to new claim 27, the framework is defined as a unitary member, and since halves 14 and 16 are movable, they are not a unitary member.

Therefore, since claims 24 and 27 clearly patentably and structurally distinguish from Dietrich, Cox is of no importance and cannot be used to modify Dietrich.

Turning now more specifically to Cox, it is now even more clear that, should the bag (80) of D be replaced with a stiff filter media of Cox, et al., as suggested by the Examiner, the stiff opening of bag (80) of D would not require the elastic band (82) of D, as it would not be effective in clamping the stiff filter onto the discharge opening 26.

The Examiner’s attention is again drawn to the description in col. 4, lines 25 to 52 of Cox, emphasizing the stiffness characteristic of the Cox filter. This filter cannot be

used to “modify the filter bag of D with the bag made of non-woven synthetic material...”, as stated by the Examiner in the third line from the end of the first paragraph on page 3 of the Action, since a stiff cartridge (col. 4, line 44) cannot be attached and affixed onto a framework as claimed in amended claim 7, and cannot teach the characterizing features of the instant bag having, *inter alia*, a “stretching strength”, etc.

With respect to claims 25 and 26, these claims further distinguish from any combination of Dietrich and Cox et al.

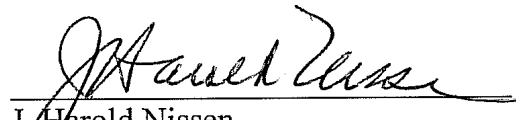
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Respectfully submitted,

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